

## SPECIFICATION

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3 To all whom it may concern:

4 Be it known that Julio C. Bermudez, a citizen of Argentina, Stefano Foresti, a  
5 citizen of Italy, Dwayne R. Westenskow, a citizen of the United States of America, James  
6 Agutter, a citizen of the United States of America, and Debra Gondeck-Becker, a citizen  
7 of the United States of America, have invented a new and useful invention entitled  
8 **“METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING DYNAMIC SYSTEMS USING**  
9 **N-DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATIONS OF CRITICAL FUNCTIONS”** of which the  
10 following comprises a complete specification.

1           METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING DYNAMIC  
2           SYSTEMS USING N-DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATIONS OF  
3           CRITICAL FUNCTIONS

4

5           Background of the Invention

6    **Field of the Invention.** This invention relates to the visualization, perception,  
7    representation and computation of data relating to the attributes or conditions constituting  
8    the health state of a dynamic system. More specifically, this invention relates to the  
9    display and computation of data, in which variables constituting attributes and conditions  
10   of a dynamic system can be interrelated and visually correlated in time as three-  
11   dimensional objects.

12   **Description of the Related Art.** A variety of methods and systems for the visualization  
13    of data have been proposed. Traditionally, these methods and systems fail to present in a  
14    real-time multi-dimensional format that is directed to facilitating a user's analysis of  
15    multiple variables and the relationships between such multiple variables. Prior methods  
16    typically do not process and display data in real-time, rather they use databases or spatial  
17    organizations of historical data. Generally, they also simply plot existing information in  
18    two or three dimensions, but without using three-dimensional geometric objects to show  
19    the interrelations between data. Often previous systems and methods are limited to pie  
20    charts, lines or bars to represent the data. Also, many previous systems are limited to  
21    particular applications or types of data. The flexibility and adaptability of the user  
22    interface and control is typically very limited, and may not provide flexible coordinate  
23    systems and historical-trend monitors. Other systems, which have a flexible user

1 interface, generally require substantial user expertise in order to collect and evaluate the  
2 data, including the pre-identification of data ranges and resolution. Another common  
3 limitation of previous systems and methods is that they provide only a single or  
4 predetermined viewpoint from which to observe the data. Typically, prior systems and  
5 methods do not provide data normalcy frameworks to aid in the interpretation of the data.  
6 Furthermore, most prior methods use “icons,” shapes, lines, bars, or graphs. For general  
7 background material, the reader is directed to United States Patent Nos. 4,752,893,  
8 4,772,882, 4,813,013, 4,814,755, 4,823,283, 4,915,757, 5,021,976, 5,121,469, 5,262,944,  
9 5,317,321, 5,491,779, 5,588,104, 5,592,195, 5,596,694, 5,751,931, 5,768,552, 5,774,878,  
10 5,796,398, 5,812,134, 5,830,150, 5,923,330, each of which is hereby incorporated by  
11 reference in its entirety for the material disclosed therein.

12 As this disclosure employs a number of terms, which may be new to the reader,  
13 the reader is directed to the applicants’ definitions section, which is provided at the  
14 beginning of the detailed description section.

15 **Summary of the Invention**

16 It is desirable to provide a method, system, and apparatus, which facilitates the  
17 rapid and accurate analysis of complex and quickly changing data. Moreover, it is  
18 desirable that such a system and method not be arbitrarily limited to a particular field or  
19 application. It is important that such a system and method be capable of analyzing time  
20 based, real-time, and historical data and that it be able to graphically show the  
21 relationships between various data.

22 Recent research studies have indicated that the human mind is better able to  
23 analyze and use complex data when it is presented in a graphic, real-world type

1 representation, rather than when it is presented in textual or numeric formats. Research  
2 in thinking, imagination and learning has shown that visualization plays an intuitive and  
3 essential role in assisting a user associate, correlate, manipulate and use information. The  
4 more complex the relationship between information, the more critically important is the  
5 communication, including audio and visualization of the data. Modern human factors  
6 theory suggests that effective data representation requires the presentation of information  
7 in a manner that is consistent with the perceptual, cognitive, and response-based mental  
8 representations of the user. For example, the application of perceptual grouping (using  
9 color, similarity, connectedness, motion, sound etc.) can facilitate the presentation of  
10 information that should be grouped together. Conversely, a failure to use perceptual  
11 principles in the appropriate ways can lead to erroneous analysis of information.

12 The manner in which information is presented also affects the speed and accuracy  
13 of higher-level cognitive operations. For example, research on the “symbolic distance  
14 effect” suggests that there is a relationship between the nature of the cognitive decisions  
15 (for example, is the data increasing or decreasing in magnitude?) and the way the  
16 information is presented (for example, do the critical indices become larger or smaller, or  
17 does the sound volume or pitch rise or fall?). Additionally, “population stereotypes”  
18 suggest that there are ways to present information that are compatible with well learned  
19 interactions with other systems (for example, an upwards movement indicates an  
20 increasing value, while a downwards movement indicates a decreasing value).

21 Where there is compatibility between the information presented to the user and  
22 the cognitive representations presented to the user, performance is often more rapid,  
23 accurate, and consistent. Therefore, it is desirable that information be presented to the

1 user in a manner that improves the user's ability to process the information and  
2 minimizes any mental transformations that must be applied to the data.

3 Therefore, it is the general object of this invention to provide a method and  
4 systems for presenting a three-dimensional visual and/or possibly an audio display  
5 technique that assists in the monitoring, diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of the  
6 "health" of a dynamic system, whether a natural or artificial system.

7 It is a further object of this invention to provide a method and system that assists  
8 in the evaluation of natural systems, including living organisms, ecological systems, and  
9 environmental systems.

10 It is another object of this invention to provide a method and system that assists in  
11 the evaluation of artificial or man-made systems, including economic systems, devices,  
12 engines, power plants and the like.

13 It is a still further object of this invention to provide a method and system that  
14 assists in the determination of the "health" of a dynamic system, by providing visual  
15 information related to the nature or quality of the soundness, wholeness, or well-being of  
16 the system as related to historical or normative values.

17 Another object of this invention is to provide a method and system that assists in  
18 the determination of the functioning of a system by measuring the interaction among a  
19 set of "vital-signs" normally associated with the health of the system.

20 A still further object of this invention is to provide a method and system, which  
21 provides the gathering and use of sensor measured data, as well as the formatting and  
22 normalization of the data in a format suitable to the processing methodology.

1        A further object of this invention is to provide a method and system, which  
2    organizes a system's data into relevant data sets or critical functions as appropriate.

3        Another object of this invention is to provide a method and system, which  
4    provides a three-dimensional health-space for mapping the system's data.

5        It is another object of this invention to provide a method and system, which  
6    provides three-dimensional objects that are symbols of the critical functioning of the  
7    system being monitored.

8        It is an object of this invention to provide a method and system that shows the  
9    relationships between several critical functions that a user wishes to monitor.

10       It is a further object of this invention to provide a method and system that permits  
11    an integrated and overall holistic understanding of the process being monitored.

12       A further object of this invention is to provide a method and system where three-  
13    dimensional objects are built from three-dimensional object primitives, including: cubes,  
14    spheres, pyramids, n-polygon prisms, cylinders, slabs.

15       A still further object of this invention is to provide a method and system, wherein  
16    three-dimensional objects are placed within health-space based on the coordinates of their  
17    geometric centers, edges, vertices, or other definite geometric variables.

18       It is a further object of this invention to provide a method and system which has  
19    three-dimensional objects that have three spatial dimensions, as well as geometric,  
20    aesthetic and aural attributes, to permit the mapping of multiple data functions.

21       It is another object of this invention to provide a method and system which shows  
22    increases and decreases in data values using changes in location, size, form, texture,  
23    opacity, color, sound and the relationships thereof in their context.

1           It is a still further object of this invention to provide a method and system,  
2   wherein the particular three-dimensional configuration of three-dimensional objects can  
3   be associated with a particular time and health state.

4           A still further object of this invention is to provide a method and system that  
5   permits the simultaneous display of the history of data objects.

6           Another object of this invention is to provide a method and system that provides  
7   for the selection of various user selectable viewports.

8           It is a further object of this invention to provide a method and system that  
9   provides both a global and a local three-dimensional coordinate space.

10          It is another object of this invention to provide a method and system that permits  
11   the use of time as one of the coordinates.

12          It is a still further object of this invention to provide a method and system that  
13   provides a reference framework of normative values for direct comparison with the  
14   measured data.

15          It is a further object of this invention to provide a method and system where  
16   normative values are based on the average historical behavior of a wide population of  
17   healthy systems similar to the system whose health is being monitored.

18          A further object of this invention is to provide a method and system that provides  
19   viewpoints that can be selected to be perspective views, immersive Virtual Reality views,  
20   or any orthographic views.

21          Another object of this invention is to provide a method and system that permits  
22   the display of a layout of multiple time-space viewpoints.

1 A still further object of this invention is to provide a method and system that  
2 provides for zooming in and out of a time and/or space coordinate.

3 It is another object of this invention to provide a method and system that permits  
4 temporal and three dimensional modeling of data “health” states based on either pre-  
5 recorded data or real-time data, that is as the data is obtained.

6 Another object of this invention is to provide a method and system that presents  
7 the data in familiar shapes, colors, and locations to enhance the usability of the data.

8 A still further object of the invention is to provide a method and system that uses  
9 animation, and sound to enhance the usefulness of the data to the user.

10 It is an object of this invention to provide a method and system for the  
11 measurement, computation, display and user interaction, of complex data sets that can be  
12 communicated and processed at various locations physically remote from each other,  
13 over a communication network, as necessary for the efficient utilization of the data and  
14 which can be dynamically changed or relocated as necessary.

15 It is a still further object of this invention to provide a method and system for the  
16 display of data that provides both a standard and a customized interface mode, thereby  
17 providing user and application flexibility.

18 These and other objects of this invention are achieved by the method and system  
19 herein described and are readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon careful  
20 review of the following drawings, detailed description and claims.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

22 In order to show the manner that the above-recited and other advantages and  
23 objects of the invention are obtained, a more particular description of the preferred

1 embodiment of the invention, which is illustrated in the appended drawings, is described  
2 as follows. The reader should understand that the drawings depict only a preferred  
3 embodiment of the invention, and are not to be considered as limiting in scope. A brief  
4 description of the drawings is as follows:

5 Figure 1a is a top-level representative diagram showing the data processing paths  
6 of the preferred embodiment of this invention.

7 Figure 1b is a top-level block diagram of the data processing flow of the preferred  
8 embodiment of this invention.

9 Figure 1c is a top-level block diagram of one preferred processing path of this  
10 invention.

11 Figure 1d is a top-level block diagram of a second preferred processing path of  
12 this invention.

13 Figures 2a, 2b, 2c, and 2d are representative 3-D objects representing critical  
14 functions.

15 Figure 3 is a representation of data objects in H-space.

16 Figures 4a and 4b are representative views of changes in data objects in time.

17 Figures 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g and 5h are representative views of properties of  
18 data objects provided in the preferred embodiment of this invention.

19 Figure 6 shows a 3-D configuration of the objects in H-space in the preferred  
20 embodiment of the invention.

21 Figure 7 shows H-space with a time coordinate along with local-space  
22 coordinates.

1 Figures 8a and 8b show the global level coordinate system of the preferred  
2 embodiment of this invention.

3 Figures 9a and 9b show various viewpoints of the data within H-space in the  
4 preferred embodiment of this invention.

5 Figure 10 shows the transformation of an object in space in context, with a  
6 reference framework, in the preferred embodiment of this invention.

7 Figure 11a shows the zooming out function in the invention.

8 Figure 11b shows the zooming in function in the invention.

9 Figures 12a and 12b show a 3-D referential framework of normative values.

10 Figure 13 shows the interface modes of the preferred embodiment of this  
11 invention.

12 Figure 14 is a hardware system flow diagram showing various hardware  
13 components of the preferred embodiments of the invention.

14 Figure 15 is a software flow chart showing the logic steps of a preferred  
15 embodiment of the invention.

16 Figure 16 is a software block diagram showing the logic steps of the image  
17 computation and rendering process of a preferred embodiment of the invention.

18 Figure 17 is a photograph of the 3-dimensional display of a preferred embodiment  
19 of the invention.

20 Figure 18 is a close-up front view of the cardiac object and the associated  
21 reference grid of a preferred embodiment of the invention.

1                   Figure 19 is a view of the front view portion of the display of a preferred  
2 embodiment of the present invention showing the cardiac object in the foreground and  
3 the respiratory object in the background.

4 Figure 20 is a view of the top view portion of the display of a preferred  
5 embodiment of the present invention showing the cardiac object toward the bottom of the  
6 view and the respiratory object toward the top of the view.

7 Figure 21 is a view of the side view portion of the display of a preferred  
8 embodiment of the present invention showing the cardiac object to the left and the  
9 respiratory object to the right.

10 Figure 22 is a view of the 3-D perspective view portion of the display of a  
11 preferred embodiment of the invention showing the cardiac object in the left foreground  
12 and the respiratory object in the right background.

### Detailed Description of the Invention

14 This invention is a method, system and apparatus for the visual display of  
15 complex sets of dynamic data. In particular, this invention provides the means for  
16 efficiently analyzing, comparing and contrasting data, originating from either natural or  
17 artificial systems. This invention provides n-dimensional visual representations of data  
18 through innovative use of orthogonal views, form, space, frameworks, color, shading,  
19 texture, transparency, sound and visual positioning of the data. The preferred system of  
20 this invention includes one or a plurality of networked computer processing and display  
21 systems, which provide real-time as well as historical data, and which processes and  
22 formats the data into an audio-visual format with a visual combination of objects and  
23 models with which the user can interact to enhance the usefulness of the processed data.

1 While this invention is applicable to a wide variety of data analysis applications, one  
2 important application is the analysis of health data. For this reason, the example of a  
3 medical application for this invention is used throughout this description. The use of this  
4 example is not intended to limit the scope of this invention to medical data analysis  
5 applications only, rather it is provided to give a context to the wide range of potential  
6 application for this invention.

7 This invention requires its own lexicon. For the purposes of this patent  
8 description and claims, the inventors intend that the following terms be understood to  
9 have the following definitions.

10 An “artificial system” is an entity, process, combination of human designed parts,  
11 and/or environment that is created, designed or constructed by human intention.  
12 Examples of artificial systems include manmade real or virtual processes, computer  
13 systems, electrical power systems, utility and construction systems, chemical processes  
14 and designed combinations, economic processes (including, financial transactions),  
15 agricultural processes, machines, and human designed organic entities.

16 A “natural system” is a functioning entity whose origin, processes and structures  
17 were not manmade or artificially created. Examples of natural systems are living  
18 organisms, ecological systems and various Earth environments.

19 The “health” of a system is the state of being of the system as defined by its  
20 freedom from disease, ailment, failure or inefficiency. A diseased or ill state is a  
21 detrimental departure from normal functional conditions, as defined by the nature or  
22 specifications of the particular system (using historical and normative statistical values).

1 The health of a functioning system refers to the soundness, wholeness, efficiency or well  
2 being of the entity. Moreover, the health of a system is determined by its functioning.

3 “Functions” are behaviors or operations that an entity performs. Functional  
4 fitness is measures by the interaction among a set of “vital-signs” normally taken or  
5 measured using methods well known in the art, from a system to establish the system’s  
6 health state, typically at regular or defined time intervals.

7 “Health-space” or “H-space” is the data representation environment that is used to  
8 map the data in three or more dimensions.

9 “H-state” is a particular 3-D configuration or composition that the various 3-D  
10 objects take in H-space at a particular time. In other words, H-state is a 3-D snapshot of  
11 the system’s health at one point of time.

12 “Life-space” or “L-space” provides the present and past health states of a system  
13 in a historical and comparative view of the evolution of the system in time. This 3-D  
14 representation environment constitutes the historical or Life-space of a dynamic system.  
15 L-space allows for both continuous and categorical displays of temporal dependent  
16 complex data. In other words, L-space represents the health history or trajectory of the  
17 system in time.

18 “Real-Time Representation” is the display of a representation of the data within a  
19 fraction of a second from the time when the event of the measured data occurred in the  
20 dynamic system.

21 “Real-Time User Interface” is the seemingly instantaneous response in the  
22 representation due to user interactivity (such as rotation and zooming).

1           A “variable” is a time dependent information unit (one unit per time increment)  
2           related to sensing a given and constant feature of the dynamic system.

3           “Vital signs” are key indicators that measure the system’s critical functions or  
4           physiology.

5           In the preferred embodiments of this invention, data is gathered using methods or  
6           processes well known in the art or as appropriate and necessary. For example, in general,  
7           physiologic data, such as heart rate, respiration rate and volume, blood pressure, and the  
8           like, is collected using the various sensors that measure the functions of the natural  
9           system. Sensor-measured data is electronically transferred and translated into a digital  
10          data format to permit use by the invention. This invention uses the received measured  
11          data to deliver real-time and/or historical representations of the data and/or recorded data  
12          for later replay. Moreover, this invention permits the monitoring of the health of a  
13          dynamic system in a distributed environment. By distributed environment, it is meant  
14          that a user or users interacting with the monitoring system may be in separate locations  
15          from the location of the dynamic system being monitored. In its most basic elements, the  
16          monitoring system of this invention has three major logical components: (1) the sensors  
17          that measure the data of the system; (2) the networked computational information  
18          systems that computes the representation and that exchanges data with the sensors and  
19          the user interface; and (3) the interactive user interface that displays the desired  
20          representation and that interactively accepts the users’ inputs. The components and  
21          devices that perform the three major functions of this invention may be multiple, may be  
22          in the same or different physical locations, and/or may be assigned to a specific process  
23          or shared by multiple processes.

1       Figure 1a is a top-level representative diagram showing the data processing paths  
2       of the preferred embodiment of this invention operating on a natural system. The natural  
3       system 101a is shown as a dynamic entity whose origin, processes and structures  
4       (although not necessarily its maintenance) were not manmade or artificially created.  
5       Examples of natural systems are living organisms, ecological systems, and various Earth  
6       environments. In one preferred embodiment of the invention, a human being is the  
7       natural system whose physiology is being monitored. Attached to the natural system  
8       101a are a number of sensors 102. These sensors 102 collect the physiologic data,  
9       thereby measuring the selected critical functions of the natural system. Typically, the  
10      data gathering of the sensors 102 is accomplished with methods or techniques well  
11      known in the art. The sensors 102 are typically and preferably electrically connected to a  
12      digital data formatter 103. However, in other embodiments of this invention, the sensors  
13      may be connected using alternative means including but not limited to optical, RF and the  
14      like. In many instances, this digital data formatter 103 is a high speed analog to digital  
15      converter. Also, connected to the digital data formatter 103 is the simulator 101b. The  
16      simulator 101b is an apparatus or process designed to simulate the physiologic process  
17      underlying the life of the natural system 101a. A simulator 101b is provided to generate  
18      vital sign data in place of a natural system 101a, for such purposes as education, research,  
19      system test, and calibration. The output of the digital data formatter 103 is Real-Time  
20      data 104. Real-Time data 104 may vary based on the natural system 101a being  
21      monitored or the simulator 101b being used and can be selected to follow any desired  
22      time frame, for example time frames ranging from one-second periodic intervals, for the  
23      refreshment rates of patients in surgery, to monthly statistics reporting in an ecological

1 system. The Real-Time data 104 is provided to a data recorder 105, which provides the  
2 means for recording data for later review and analysis, and to a data modeling processor  
3 and process 108. In the preferred embodiments of this invention the data recorder 105  
4 uses processor controlled digital memory, and the data modeling processor and process  
5 108 is one or more digital computer devices, each having a processor, memory, display,  
6 input and output devices and a network connection. The data recorder 105 provides the  
7 recorded data to a speed controller 106, which permits the user to speed-up or slow-down  
8 the replay of recorded information. Scalar manipulations of the time (speed) in the  
9 context of the 3-D modeling of the dynamic recorded digital data allows for new and  
10 improved methods or reviewing the health of the systems 101a,b. A customize /  
11 standardize function 107 is provided to permit the data modeling to be constructed and  
12 viewed in a wide variety of ways according to the user's needs or intentions.

13   Customization 107 includes the ability to modify spatial scale, such modifying includes  
14   but is not limited to zooming, translating, and rotating, attributes and viewports in  
15   addition to speed. In one preferred embodiment of the invention, the range of  
16   customization 107 permitted for monitoring natural systems 101a physiologic states is  
17   reduced and is heavily standardized in order to ensure that data is presented in a common  
18   format that leads to common interpretations among a diverse set of users. The data  
19   modeling processor and process 108 uses the prescribed design parameters, the  
20   standardized/customize function and the received data to build a three-dimensional (3-D)  
21   model in real-time and to deliver it to an attached display. The attached display of the  
22   data modeling processor and process 108 presents a representation 109 of 3-D objects in

1 3-D space in time to provide the visual representation of the health of the natural system  
2 101a in time, or as in the described instances of the simulated 101b system.

3 Figure 1b is a top-level block diagram of the data processing flow of the  
4 preferred embodiment of this invention operating on an artificial system. An artificial  
5 system is a dynamic entity whose origin, processes and structure have been designed and  
6 constructed by human intention. Examples of artificial systems are manmade real or  
7 virtual, mechanical, electrical, chemical and/or organic entities. The artificial system  
8 110a is shown attached to a number of sensors 111. These sensors 111 collect the  
9 various desired data, thereby measuring the selected critical functions of the artificial  
10 system. Typically, the data gathering of the sensors 111 is accomplished with methods or  
11 techniques well known in the art. The sensors 111 are connected to a data formatter 112,  
12 although alternative connection means including optical, RF and the like may be  
13 substituted without departing from the concept of this invention. In many instances, this  
14 digital data formatter 112 is a high speed analog to digital converter. Although, in certain  
15 applications of the invention, namely stock market transactions, the data is communicated  
16 initially by people making trades. Also connected to the digital data formatter 112 is the  
17 simulator 110b. The simulator 110b is an apparatus or process designed to simulate the  
18 process underlying the state of the artificial system 110a. The simulator 110b is provided  
19 to generate vital data in place of the artificial system 110a, for such purposes as  
20 education, research, system test, and calibration. The output of the digital data formatter  
21 112 is Real-Time data 113. Real-Time data 113 may vary based on the artificial system  
22 110a being monitored or the simulator 110b being used and can be selected to follow any  
23 desired time frame, for example time frames ranging from microsecond periodic

1 intervals, for the analysis of electronic systems, to daily statistics reported in an financial  
2 trading system. The Real-Time data 113 is provided to a data recorder 114, which  
3 provides the means for recording data for later review and analysis, and to a data  
4 modeling processor and process 117. In the preferred embodiments of this invention the  
5 data recorder 114 uses processor controlled digital memory, and the data modeling  
6 processor and process 117 is one or more digital computer devices, each having a  
7 processor, memory, display, input and output devices and a network connection. The  
8 data recorder 114 provides the recorded data to a speed controller 115, which permits the  
9 user to speed-up or slow-down the replay of recorded information. Scalar manipulations  
10 of the time (speed) in the context of the 3-D modeling of the dynamic recorded digital  
11 data allows for new and improved methods or reviewing the health of the system 110a,b.  
12 A customize / standardize function 116 is provided to permit the data modeling to be  
13 constructed and viewed in a wide variety of ways according to the user's needs or  
14 intentions. Customization 116 includes the ability to modify spatial scale (such  
15 modification including, but not limited to translating, rotating, and zooming), attributes,  
16 other structural and symbolic parameters, and viewports in addition to speed. The range  
17 of customization form monitoring artificial systems' 110a,b states is wide and not as  
18 standardized as that used in the preferred embodiment of the natural system 101a,b  
19 monitoring. In this Free Customization, the symbolic system and display method is fully  
20 adaptable to the user's needs and interests. Although this invention has a default  
21 visualization space, its rules, parameters, structure, time intervals, and overall design are  
22 completely customizable. This interface mode customize/standardize function 116 also  
23 allows the user to select what information to view and how to display the data. This

1 interface mode customization 116 may, in some preferred embodiments, produce  
2 personalized displays that although they may be incomprehensible to other users,  
3 facilitate highly individual or competitive pursuits not limited to standardized  
4 interpretations, and therefore permit a user to look at data in a new manner. Such  
5 applications as analysis of stock market data or corporation health monitoring may be  
6 well suited to the flexibility of this interface mode. The data modeling processor and  
7 process 117 uses the prescribed design parameters, the customize/standardized function  
8 116 and the received real-time data 113 to build a three-dimensional (3-D) model in time  
9 and to deliver it to a display. The display of the data modeling processor and process

10 ...117 presents a representation 118 of 3-D objects in 3-D space in time to provide the  
11 visual representation of the health of the artificial system 110a in time, or as in the  
12 described instances of the simulated 110b system.

13 ...Figure 1c is a top-level block diagram of one preferred processing path of this  
14 invention. Sensors 119 collect the desired signals and transfer them as electrical impulses  
15 to the appropriate data creation apparatus 120. The data creation apparatus 120 converts  
16 the received electrical impulses into digital data. A data formatter 121 receives the  
17 digital data from the data creation apparatus 120 to provide appropriate formatted data for  
18 the data recorder 122. The data recorder 122 provides digital storage of data for  
19 processing and display. A data processor 123 receives the output from the data recorder  
20 122. The data processor 123 includes a data organizer 124 for formatting the received  
21 data for further processing. The data modeler 125 receives the data from the data  
22 organizer and prepares the models for representing to the user. The computed models are  
23 received by the data representer 126, which formats the models for presentation on a

1 computer display device. Receiving the formatted data from the data processor 123 are a  
2 number of data communication devices 127, 130. These devices 127, 130 include a  
3 central processing unit, which controls the image provided to one or more local displays  
4 128, 131. The local displays may be interfaced with a custom interface module 129  
5 which provides user control of such attributes as speed 131, object attributes 132,  
6 viewports 133, zoom 134 and other like user controls 135.

7 Figure 1d is a top-level block diagram of a second preferred processing path of  
8 this invention. In this embodiment of the invention a plurality of entities 136a,b,c are  
9 attached to sensors 137a,b,c which communicate sensor data to a data collection  
10 mechanism 138, which receives and organizes the sensed data. The data collection  
11 mechanism 138 is connected 139 to the data normalize and formatting process 140. The  
12 data normalize and formatting process 140 passes the normalized and formatted data 141  
13 to the distributed processors 142. Typically and preferably the processing 142 is  
14 distributed over the Internet, although alternative communication networks may be  
15 substituted without departing from the concept of this invention. Each processing unit  
16 142 is connected to any of the display devices 143a,b,c and receives command control  
17 from a user from a number of interface units 144a,b,c, each of which may also be  
18 connected directly to a display devices 143a,b,c. The interface units 144a,b,c receive  
19 commands 145 from the user that provide speed, zoom and other visual attributes  
20 controls to the displays 143a,b,c.

21 Figures 2a, 2b, 2c, and 2d are representative 3-D objects representing critical  
22 functions. Each 3-D object is provided as a symbol for a critical function of the entity  
23 whose health is being monitored. The symbol is created by selecting the interdependent

1 variables that measure a particular physiologic function and expressing the variable in  
2 spatial (x,y,z) and other dimensions. Each 3-D object is built from 3-D object primitives  
3 (i.e., a cube, a sphere, a pyramid, a n-polygon prism, a cylinder, a slab, etc.). More  
4 specifically, the spatial dimensions (extensions X, Y and Z) are modeled after the most  
5 important physiologic variables based on (1) data interdependency relationships, (2) rate,  
6 type and magnitude of change in data flow, (3) geometric nature and perceptual potential  
7 of the 3-D object, for example a pyramid versus a cylinder, (4) potential of the object's  
8 volume to be a data-variable itself by modeling appropriate data into x, y and z  
9 dimensions (e.g., in one preferred application of the invention, cardiac output is the result  
10 of heart rate (x and y dimensions) and stroke volume (z)), (5) orthographic viewing  
11 potential (see viewport) and (6) the relationship with the normal values framework.

12 The first representative object 201, shown in figure 2a, is an engine process. The  
13 object 201 representing this process is provided on a standard x-y-z coordinate axis 202.  
14 The correlation between temperature, shown in the x1-dimension 204, engine RPM,  
15 shown in the y1-dimension 205 and exhaust gas volume, shown in the z1-dimension 203  
16 is shown by changes in the overall sizes and proportion of the object 201. In the shown  
17 example object 201 the engine gas volume 203 is large, when RPM 205 is low and the  
18 engine temperature 204 is in the middle range. This combination of values, even without  
19 specific identified values suggests an engine's starting point.

20 The second representative object 206, shown in figure 2b, is an object  
21 representing cardiac function using stroke volume, in the y2-dimension 209, and the heart  
22 rate per second, shown as the x2, z2 dimensions. The total cardiac volume is shown as  
23 the total spherical volume 208.

1        The third representative object 211, shown in figure 2c, represents the interaction  
2    between the number of contracts, shown in the y3-dimension 212, the average revenue  
3    per contract, shown in the z3-dimension 214, and the average time per contract, shown in  
4    the x3-dimension 213. Assessing the interaction among these variables is important in  
5    monitoring of a sales department's operations.

6        The fourth representative object 215 is shown in figure 2d, shows the respiratory  
7    function generated by the respiratory rate, shown in x4-dimension 216, the respiratory  
8    volume, shown in the y4-dimension 216, and inhalation / exhalations, shown in the z4-  
9    dimension 218.

10        Figure 3 is a representation of data objects in H-space 301. Data sets are  
11    represented as 3-D objects of various characteristics and relationships within a 3-D  
12    representation space. The data representation environment in this figure is used to map  
13    the physiologic data in 3-D and is what is referred to as "Health-space" or "H-space" 301.  
14        The 3-D objects are placed within H-space on the 3 coordinates of their geometric  
15    centers. The coordinates for an object's geometric center depends on the relevant data  
16    associated to the particular critical function the object represents. For example, in the  
17    preferred embodiment, the cardiac function object, shown as a spherical object 302, is  
18    placed in H-space 301 based on Mean Blood Pressure, designated as Oy 306 and Oxygen  
19    Saturation in the Blood, shown as Oz 307. In the other example object, the prism 309 is  
20    placed in H-space 301 depending on sales profit, shown as Py 312, and products in stock,  
21    shown as Pz, 311. The location of 3-D objects in H-space 301 allows for the overall  
22    extension envelope of H-space, the relationship between 3-D objects and spaces within  
23    H-space 301, the viewport display areas and the departure from normative values.

1      Typically and preferably the centers of the objects 302, 309 are located in the middle of  
2      the x-dimension of H-space 301.

3           Figures 4a and 4b are representative views of changes in data objects in time. In  
4      figure 4a, the x-coordinate 400 is used to measure the temporal dimension of an objects  
5      402 trajectory. The y-z plane 401a determines the location of an object's geometric  
6      center within H-space. Increases or decreases in data values associated with the  
7      coordinates of the object's geometric center that make that object's location change in  
8      time as shown in path line 401b. In this view, the object 402 is presented in four different  
9      time intervals 403, 404, 405, 406, thereby creating a historical trajectory. The time  
10     intervals at which the object 402 is shown are provided 407. In figure 4b, increases in  
11     size and proportion are presented, 408, 409, 410, 411 providing an example of changes in  
12     values. The monitoring of these changes in time assists the user establish and evaluate  
13     comparative relationships within and across H-states.

14           Figures 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g and 5h are representative views of properties of  
15     data objects provided in the preferred embodiment of this invention. In addition to the  
16     three x-y-z spatial dimensions used for value correlation and analysis, 3-D objects may  
17     present data value states by using other geometric, aesthetic, and aural attributes that  
18     provide for the mapping of more physiologic data. These figures show some of the  
19     representative other geometric, aesthetic, and aural attributes supported for data  
20     presentation in this invention. Figure 5a shows changes in apparent volumetric density.  
21     A solid object 501 is shown in relation to a void object 502 and an intermediate state 503  
22     object. Figure 5b shows changes in apparent 3-D enclosure. An open object 504, a  
23     closed object 505, and an intermediate state 506 is shown. Figure 5c shows the apparent

1 degree of formal deformation. A normal object 507, a distorted object 508, a transformed  
2 object 509, and a destroyed object 510 are shown in comparison. Figure 5d shows  
3 secondary forms of the objects. “Needles” 513 protruding through a standard object 512  
4 in combination 511 is shown in comparison with a boundary 515 surrounding a standard  
5 object 514 and a bar 517 protruding into the original form object 518 forming a new  
6 combination object 516 are shown providing additional combination supported in this  
7 invention. Figure 5e shows the various degrees of opacity of the object’s surface,  
8 showing an opaque object 519, a transparent object 520 and an intermediate state object  
9 521. Figure 5f shows the various degrees of texture supported by the object display of  
10 this invention, including a textured object 522, a smooth object 523 and an intermediate  
11 textured object 524. Figure 5g is intended to represent various color hue possibilities  
12 supported for objects in this invention. An object with color hue is represented 525 next  
13 to a value hue object 526 and a saturation hue object 527 for relative comparison.  
14 Naturally, in the actual display of this invention colors are used rather than simply the  
15 representation of color shown in figure 5g. Figure 5h shows the atmospheric density of  
16 the representation space possible in the display of objects in this invention. An empty-  
17 clear space 528, a full-dark space 530 and an intermediate foggy space 523 are shown  
18 with 3-D objects shown within the representative space 529, 531, 533.

19 Aural properties supported in this invention include, but are not limited to pitch,  
20 timbre, tone and the like.

21 Figure 6 shows the 3-D configuration of the objects in H-space in the preferred  
22 embodiment of the invention. In this view the local level, H-space 601 is shown within  
23 which the 3-D objects 602, 603, and 604 are located. Object 602 represents the

1 respiratory function of an individual. Its 602 x-y-z dimensions change based on the  
2 parameter-based dimensional correlation. The object 603 represents the efficiency of the  
3 cardiac system by varying the x,y,z coordinates of the object. The object 604 represents a  
4 human brain function, also with the x,y,z dimensions changing based on the parameter-  
5 based dimensional correlation. In this way the user can easily view the relative  
6 relationships between the three physiological objects 602, 603, 604. Within H-space 601,  
7 the temporal coordinate (i.e., periodic time interval for data capturing that defines how H-  
8 space is plotted in Live-space – see figure 7) is a spatial dimension on which data is  
9 mapped. The x-dimension of 605 of the H-space 601 can be mapped to another  
10 independent variable such as heart rate period, blood pressure or the like. The location of  
11 an object in the y-dimension 606 of H-space 601 can be mapped to additional variables  
12 that are desired to be monitored such as SaO<sub>2</sub> content, CaO<sub>2</sub> content, or temperature in  
13 the blood. The location of an object in the z-dimension 607 of the H-space 601 can also  
14 be mapped to additional variables that the user desires to monitor. A hypothetical object  
15 608 shows that the three coordinates are contextual to a particular object 608 and need  
16 not be the same for all objects, except in the object's 608 extension measuring properties.  
17 Fixed x- and z-dimension values 609a and 609b are shown as constant. The y-value 610  
18 of this object 608 changes to fluctuating values or data type that results in the height of  
19 the object 608 increasing or decreasing. This view shows another object 611 showing the  
20 relationship between the three dimensions. Constant x- and y-values 612a and 612b are  
21 shown. The z-value 613 of this object 611 changes to fluctuating values or data types  
22 that result in the width of the object 611 increasing or decreasing. An overlapping view  
23 614 of an object 615 that has extended past the H-space limitation. A limit of H-space

1 616 with a spherical object 617 located inside H-space 616 shown with the degree of  
2 extension shown in shaded circles.

3 Figure 7 shows a series of H-spaces 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706 along a global  
4 time coordinate 708, and the local-space coordinates 707 that governs each H-space.  
5 Each of these H-spaces represents progressive states of the dynamic system at pre-  
6 established temporal intervals ( $T_0, T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$ ) and the six 701, 702, 703, 704, 705,  
7 706 together show the evolution of that system over time, demonstrating the historical  
8 representation of individual H-states within an overall “Life-space” or “L-space.” At the  
9 global level (or L-space), one of the coordinates, typically x, is always time. The  
10 temporal coordinate is scaled based on the intervals at which a particular functions  
11 system’s physiologic data are collected by the art or as appropriate. This interval or  
12 module is fixed and constant across L-space and provides the necessary temporal frame  
13 of reference for comparing different H-spaces. The fixed temporal interval also  
14 determines the maximum x-extension of the representation envelope of H-space. The  
15 other two coordinates, y and z, provide L-space with extension and are not fixed. The  
16 three coordinates thus described provide a regulating 3-D environment within which the  
17 H-states can be visualized and related to each other.

18 Figures 8a and 8b show the global level coordinate system of the preferred  
19 embodiment of this invention. Figure 8a shows the L-space coordinate system 801 in its  
20 preferred embodiment. The x-dimension 802 of L-space is mapped to a constant time  
21 interval, set by means standard in the art or otherwise as appropriate. The present  
22 position of H-state is also indicated on the x-dimension 802. The y-dimension 803 in  
23 both positive and negative extensions is measured, up and down from the x-axis. This

1 dimension 803 can be mapped to a data variable within particular 3D object in space.  
2 The z-dimension 804 is shown in both positive and negative extensions measured  
3 forwards and backwards from the intersecting x-axis. This dimension 804 can be mapped  
4 to a data variable within a particular 3D object in space. Now for figure 8b a prismatic  
5 object 800 represents a critical function, whose evolution is being monitored in L-space,  
6 of a given dynamic system. The front view 805 shows the different H-states of the  
7 prism/function 800 using a time T to T-n historical trend. The level of intersection and  
8 separation between the front views of the prism indicate abnormal health states of the  
9 critical function the object 800 represents. No separation or intersection shows normal  
10 function conditions. The trajectory in the y-dimension of the prism (i.e., H-states of the  
11 critical function) are mapped to a variable that cause their relative position to change in  
12 the + and -y dimension. The current state 806 of the prism is shown in this front view  
13 805. A top view of 809 of the three-dimensional L-space is shown, showing the  
14 evolution of the prism 800 backward in time and showing a T to T-N historical trend.  
15 The level of intersection and separation indicate abnormal health states of the particular  
16 critical function the prism represents. No separation or intersection shows normal  
17 conditions. The trajectory in the z-dimension of the object is mapped to a variable that  
18 causes their position to change in the + and -z dimension. This top view shows both the  
19 z and y trajectories in one comprehensive view. The perspective view 808 of L-space  
20 gives a comprehensive view of the interaction of the prisms (the H-states of the function)  
21 and their movement in all dimensions. The side view 807 of L-space shows the prisms  
22 and their positions in L-space giving a simultaneous view of z and y trajectories.

1       Figures 9a and 9b shows various viewpoints in which the data may be visualized  
2       in the preferred embodiment of this invention. This figure shows representations of a  
3       data object (a prism) and is provided to show that there are two basic types of viewports:  
4       orthographic and perspectival. The orthographic viewports 906, 907, 908, of figure 9b  
5       use a parallel system of projection to generate representations of H-space that maintains  
6       dimensional constancy without deformation. Some examples of orthographic views  
7       include traditional architectural or engineering views of objects, such as a top view, a  
8       front view, and a side view. The orthographic viewport allows for accurate and focused  
9       2-D expressions of the actual 3-D object. The perspectival viewport 909, shown in figure  
-10      9b uses a focal system of projection to generate depictions analogous to our perception of  
11      reality but at the cost of deformation and lack of dimensional constancy. For example,  
12      the top view 902 along with the side view 903 and the front view of 904 of the 3-D data  
13      object 901 are shown in figure 9a. Figure 9b shows three orthogonal views 906, 907, 908  
14      along with a perspective view 909 of the current data object. The number and types of  
15      viewports used in a particular embodiment of the invention may range from one type, for  
16      example a perspective viewport allowing immerse virtual reality, to combinations of both  
17      types. In the preferred current embodiment, there are the four viewports shown in figure  
18      9b. Given the 3-D nature of data objects and H-space, viewports provide the user with  
19      different depictions of the same data.

20       Figure 10 shows the transform of an object in space in context, with a reference  
21      framework, in the preferred embodiment of this invention. The referential framework  
22      1010 is typically set based on population normals or patient normals. This framework  
23      assists the user to see deviations from normal very quickly. An individual spherical

1 object 1011 that represents cardiac function is shown located in L-space and in relation to  
2 the referential framework. A side view 1012 is shown along with several cardiac objects.  
3 In this view the referential framework provides a center target point so that a user can  
4 make the necessary corrections to bring the object back to the ideal center of the  
5 framework. A perspectival view 1013 of the framework is also shown along with several  
6 cardiac objects. The top view 1014 of the framework is shown with several spherical  
7 objects (representing cardiac states). This figure demonstrates the variety of viewports  
8 provided to the user by this invention, which provides enhanced flexibility of analysis of  
9 the displayed data.

10 Figure 11a shows the zooming out function in the invention. This invention  
11 provides a variety of data display functions. This figure shows the way views may be  
12 zoomed in and out providing the relative expansion or compression of the time  
13 coordinate. Zooming out 1101 permits the user to look at the evolution of the system's  
14 health as it implies the relative diminution of H-states and the expansion of L-space. This  
15 view 1101 shows a zoomed out view of the front view showing a historical view of many  
16 health states. A side view 1102 zoomed out view is provided to show the historical trend  
17 stacking up behind the current view. A 3-D perspectival, zoomed out view 1103 showing  
18 the interaction of H-states over a significant amount of time is provided. A zoomed out  
19 top view 1104 shows the interaction of H-states over a large amount of time.

20 Figure 11b shows the zooming in function of the invention. The zooming in front  
21 view 1105 is shown providing an example of how zooming in permits a user to focus in  
22 on one or a few H-states to closely study specific data to determine with precision to the  
23 forces acting on a particular H-state. A zoomed in side view 1106 is provided showing

1 the details of specific variables and their interactions. A zoomed in 3-D perspective view  
2 1107 of a few objects is also shown. Also shown is a zoomed in top view 1108 showing  
3 the details of specific variables and their interaction.

4 Figures 12a shows a 3-D referential framework of normative values that is  
5 provided to permit the user a direct comparison between existing and normative health  
6 states, thereby allowing rapid detection of abnormal states. The reference framework  
7 1201 works at both the global L-space level and the local H-space level. "Normal"  
8 values are established based on average historical behavior of a wide population of  
9 systems similar to the one whose health is being monitored. This normal value  
10 constitutes the initial or by-default ideal value, which , if necessary may be adjusted to  
11 acknowledge the particular characteristics of a specific system or to follow user-  
12 determined specifications. The highest normal value of vital sign "A" 1202 (+y) is  
13 shown, along with the lowest normal value of "B" 1203 (-z), the lowest normal value of  
14 vital sign "A" 1204 (-y) and the highest normal value of vital sign "B" 1205 (+z). In  
15 figure 12b, abnormal values of "A" and "B" are shown in an orthogonal view. An  
16 abnormally high value of "A" 1206, an abnormally low value of "B" 1207, an abnormally  
17 low value of "A" 1208 and an abnormally high value of "B" 1209 are shown.

18 Figure 13 shows a comparison of the interface modes of the preferred  
19 embodiment of this invention. This invention provides two basic types of interface  
20 modes: (a) standardized or constrained customization; and (b) free or total customization.  
21 Each is directed toward different types of applications. The standardized or constrained  
22 customization 1301 uses a method and apparatus for user interface that is set a-priori by  
23 the designer and allows little customization. This interface mode establishes a stable,

1 common, and standard symbolic system and displaying method that is “user-resistant”.  
2 The fundamental rules, parameters, structure, time intervals, and overall design of L-  
3 space and H-space are not customizable. Such a normalized symbolic organization  
4 creates a common interpretative ground upon which different users may arrive at similar  
5 conclusions when provided common or similar health conditions. This is provided  
6 because similar data flows will generate similar visualization patterns within a  
7 standardized symbolic system. This interface method is intended for social disciplines,  
8 such as medicine in which common and agreeable interpretations of the data are highly  
9 sought after to ensure appropriate and verifiable monitoring, diagnosis and treatment of  
10 health states. The customization permitted in this mode is minimal and is never  
11 threatening to render the monitoring device incomprehensible to other users.

12 The free or total customization interface mode 1302 provides a symbolic system  
13 and displaying method that is changeable according to the user’s individual needs and  
14 interests. Although the invention comes with a default symbolic L-space and H-space, its  
15 rules, parameters, structure, time intervals, and overall design are customizable. This  
16 interface mode also permits the user to select what information the user wishes to view as  
17 well as how the user wishes to display it. This interface mode may produce personalized  
18 displays that are incomprehensible to other users, but provides flexibility that is highly  
19 desired in individual or competitive pursuits that do not require agreeable or verifiable  
20 interpretations. Examples of appropriate applications may include the stock market and  
21 corporate health data monitoring.

22 Figure 14 is a hardware system flow diagram showing various hardware  
23 components of the preferred embodiments of the invention in a “natural system” medical

1 application. Initially a decision 1401 is made as to the option of using data monitored on  
2 a “real” system, that is a real patient, or data from the simulator, for anesthesiology  
3 training purposes. If the data is from a real patient, then the patient 1402 is provided with  
4 patient sensors 1404, which are used to collect physiological data. Various types of  
5 sensors, including but not limited to non-invasive BP sensors, ECG leads, SaO<sub>2</sub> sensors  
6 and the like may be used. Digital sensors 1416 may also provide physiological data. An  
7 A/D converter 1405, is provided in the interface box, which receives the analog sensor  
8 signals and outputs digital data to a traditional patient monitor 1406. If the data is  
9 produced 1401 by the simulator 1403, a control box and mannequins are used. The  
10 control box controls the scenarios simulated and the setup values of each physiological  
11 variable. The mannequins generate the physiological data that simulates real patient data  
12 and doctors collect the data through different, but comparable sensors. The traditional  
13 patient monitor 1406 displays the physiological data from the interface box on the screen.  
14 Typically and preferably, this monitor 1406 is the monitor used generally in an ICU. A  
15 test 1407 is made to determine the option of where the computations and user interface  
16 are made, that is whether they are made on the network server 1408 or otherwise. If a  
17 network server 1408 is used, all or part of the data collection and computation may be  
18 performed on this computer server 1408. An option 1409 is proved for running a real  
19 time representation versus a representation delayed or replayed from events that  
20 previously occurred. For real time operation, a data buffer 1410 is provided to cache the  
21 data so that the representation is played in real time. For the replay of previous events, a  
22 data file 1411 provides the means for permanently storing the data so that visualization is  
23 replayed. The visualization software 1412 runs on a personal computer and can display

1 on its monitor or on remote displays via the internet or other networking mechanism.  
2 Typically the physiological data measured on either a real patient or the simulator are fed  
3 to the personal computer from the traditional data monitor. A standard interface such as  
4 RS232, the internet, or via a server, which receives data from the monitor, may serve as  
5 the communication channel to the personal computer running the visualization software  
6 1412. This program 1412 is the heart of the invention. The program 1412 computes the  
7 representation and processes the user interface. An option 1413 is provided for  
8 computing and user interface on the local desktop personal computer or for distribution  
9 across the internet or other network mechanism. If a local desktop personal computer is  
10 selected, the personal computer 1414 with an adequate display for computation of the  
11 visualization and user interface is provided. If a remote user interface 1415 is selected  
12 the display and user interface is communicated across the internet.

13 Figure 15 is a software flow chart showing the logic steps of a preferred  
14 embodiment of the invention. The preferred embodiment of this invention begins by  
15 reading the startup file 1501, which contains the name of the window and the properties  
16 associated with the invention. The properties associated with the a window include  
17 formulas to set object properties, text that is to be rendered in the scene, the initial size of  
18 the window, the initial rotation in each window, zoom, lighting and patient data that  
19 describes the normal state of each variable. Internal data tables are next initialized 1502.  
20 For each new window encountered in the startup file a new window object is made and  
21 this window object is appended to the list of windows. The window object contains an  
22 uninitialized list of properties describing the state of the window, which is filled with data  
23 from the startup file. The event loop is entered 1503. This is a window system

1 dependent infinite loop from which the program does not exit. After some initialization,  
2 the program waits for user input and then acts on this input. The program then takes  
3 control of the event loop for continuous rendering that is if there is no interactivity in the  
4 program. Initialization 1504 of windows is next performed. This involves calls to the  
5 window system dependent functions (these are functions that are usually different on  
6 different computational platforms) that creates the windows and displays them on the  
7 computer screen. In the current preferred embodiment of the invention, OpenGL is  
8 required, although alternative embodiments using other 3D application programming  
9 interfaces, such as PEX or DirectX, could be substituted without departing from the  
10 concept of this invention. Also, in the preferred embodiment of this invention, a personal  
11 computer graphics card is preferred in the personal computer so as to permit smooth  
12 animation with multiple windows. Although the lack of such a card is not absolutely  
13 required for operation of this invention. New data is received 1509, typically from the  
14 data file 1506 or the data buffer 1507. This new data 1509 can come from any source  
15 that generates floating-point numbers. The preferred line of data is composed of columns  
16 of floating point numbers separated by space. At this point the current time is also stored  
17 so that the next line of data can be obtained at the next user defined time interval, which  
18 is typically set at about 1 second. Object properties are next computed 1510. This is  
19 performed by using formulas that are specified in the startup file to compute properties of  
20 objects. Data fields in the formulas are specified by writing the column number preceded  
21 by a dollar sign. For example, \$1 / 20.0 would divide the first field by 20.0. The specific  
22 properties in this application are: cardiac object dimensions, material properties, and  
23 position. Material properties can include the red, green, and blue components as they

1 appear under ambient, diffuse, and specular light, as well as transparency. The cardiac  
2 object position includes the y and z positions as well as an x shift. If four or more lines  
3 of data have been acquired, the respiratory object properties are computed. A delay is  
4 necessary because a cubic spline is fitted, using four data points to do the fit, to the data  
5 points to generate a smooth respiratory object. Therefore, until four time steps have  
6 passed, the curtain is not rendered. Thereafter, it is rendered every time new data is  
7 acquired. Cardiac object properties include material properties and the height of the color  
8 bands. Blood pressure object length and materials are the thin cylinders that go through  
9 the top and bottom of each ellipsoid. Next, reference grid properties are computed. All  
10 objects, except the cardiac object reference are stationary, in the current implementation.  
11 The cardiac object reference can move according to the movement of the cardiac object if  
12 the user specifies this movement in the startup file. Next, sounds are computed 1511 and  
13 made audible 1513. Objects and reference grids are rendered 1512. Before rotation the  
14 newest object appears at the right side of the screen and oldest object is at the left side of  
15 the screen. Sound is produced 1513 next. A test 1514 is next made to determine if  
16 smooth animation is selected. If smooth animation is selected the scene will scroll during  
17 the time the program is waiting to get new data. The program, using available computing  
18 resources, selects the minimum time increment so that the shift of the objects can be  
19 rendered within the increment, but limiting the increment to the smallest increment that  
20 human eyes can detect. If smooth animation is not selected, objects are shifted to the left  
21 1515 such that the distance from the center of the newest cardiac object to that of the  
22 former cardiac object is equal to the inter-cardiac spacing. The process waits 1508 until  
23 the current time minus the time since data was last obtained equals the data acquisition

1 period specified by the user. If the current time minus the time when the data was last  
2 acquired equals the user specified data acquisition period then a new line of data is  
3 acquired. If smooth animation is selected, then the cardiac objects are shifted to the left  
4 by computing 1516 to that when it is time to get the next line of data, the cardiac objects  
5 have moved 1517, 1518 such that the distance from the rightmost cardiac object to the  
6 position where the new cardiac object will appear is equal to the inter-cardiac-object  
7 distance. For example, if it takes 0.20 seconds to render the previous scene, the period of  
8 data acquisition is 1.0 seconds, and the x shift of the rightmost cardiac object is 0.1 units  
9 then the program will shift the scene left  $(0.20 / (1.0 + 0.20) * (1.0 - 0.1) = 0.15$ . The  
10 formula in the denominator is  $(1.0 + 0.20$  instead of 0.8 because, if the scene has been  
11 shifted left such that, when new data is acquired, the shifting has stopped (because the  
12 position of the cardiac objects satisfies the criteria that the distance from the center of the  
13 rightmost cardiac object to the center point where the new cardiac object will be rendered  
14 = 1 unit) then the animation will no longer be smooth, that is, when new data is acquired  
15 the animation will appear to stop. Note, that the respiratory object is never entirely  
16 smoothly shifted because no data is available to render the object at the intermediate time  
17 steps.

18 Figure 16 is a software block diagram showing the logic steps of the image  
19 computation and rendering process of a preferred embodiment of the invention. This  
20 process begins with acquiring the window identification 1601 of the current rendering  
21 context. Next, the data structure is found 1602 corresponding to the current window  
22 identification. After which, the view is set 1603. A rotation matrix is set 1604. A  
23 projection matrix is set 1605. Lights are set 1606. The back buffer is cleared 1607.

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1 Object processing 1608 begins, and includes for each cardiac object, calling OpenGL to  
2 see material properties; shift left one inter-cardiac-object distance; push the modelview  
3 matrix, shift x,y, and z directions; call OpenGL utility toolkit to render the cardiac object;  
4 set the top cardiac object material properties, call OpenGL quadries function to render top  
5 cardiac object; set top cardiac object material properties, call OpenGL quadrics function  
6 to render bottom cardiac object and pop modelview matrix. Next, the view is set 1609, as  
7 above. The respiratory object is rendered 1610, by setting OpenGL to render quad strips,  
8 for each polygon strip set material properties, and send vertex to OpenGL. Reference  
9 grids are rendered 1611 by setting material property of the cardiac reference grid. The  
10 current position is set 1612 to be the ideal position of the newest cardiac object, that is the  
11 position corresponding to a patient in ideal health. The cardiac object material properties  
12 are set 1613. The OpenGL utility toolkit is called to render 1614 the cardiac object.  
13 Next, OpenGL is set to render quads 1615. After which the material properties of the  
14 reference planes are set 1616. Vertices that compose the reference planes through the  
15 OpenGL pipeline are sent 1617 and buffers are swapped 1618. Buffer swap is a window  
16 system defendant function.

17 Figure 17 is a photograph of the 3-dimensional display of a preferred embodiment  
18 of the invention. The 3-D view shown at lower right 1706 provides a comprehensive,  
19 integrated and interactive view of all physiological data, and shows the interaction  
20 between the different objects in relation to the reference frame. This view can be  
21 manipulated by the user to fit specific application needs. The front 1701, side 1704, 1705  
22 and top views 1702 show how the same data appears from different vantage points. In  
23 this figure these views 1701, 1702, 1704, 1705 show the interaction between the cardiac

1 object, the reference frame and the respiratory object, with the side view 1704 providing  
2 a target for optimum efficiency of the cardiac system 1705 shows the level of gas  
3 concentration in the lungs and overall tidal volume in the respiratory system. This figure  
4 17 is a representation of a true 3-D model of the physiologic data. The circle 1703  
5 shown is the top view of the respiratory waveform showing CO<sub>2</sub> content in the lungs and  
6 inspiration and expiration values. In 1703, a real time display, the object grows and  
7 shrinks with each heartbeat. Its height is proportional to the heart's volume output and its  
8 width is proportional to heart rate. The gridframe (or reference framework) shows the  
9 expected normal values for stroke volume and heart rate. The position of this object in  
10 the vertical direction of the display is proportional to the patient's mean blood pressure.  
11 This graphic objects shape and animation provides a useful graphical similarity to a  
12 working heart. In the preferred embodiment, the background is colored to show inspired  
13 and expired gases. The height of the "curtain" is proportional to tidal volume, while the  
14 width is proportional to respiratory rate. The colors which are displayed in the preferred  
15 display show the concentrations of respiratory gases. Time is set to move from right to  
16 left, with the present or current conditions shown at the "front" or right edge of each  
17 view. Past states remain to provide a historical view of the data.

18 Figure 18 is a close-up front view of the cardiac object and the associated  
19 reference framework of a preferred embodiment of the invention. The upper limit of  
20 normal blood pressure value is shown 1800 on the reference frame. The systolic blood  
21 pressure level is indicated by the bar 1801 penetrating the cardiac sphere 1806. The  
22 height 1802 of the sphere 1806 is proportional to cardiac output, which shows the  
23 optimum efficiency of the heart. The width of the sphere 1806 is proportional to 1/heart

1 rate. The elevation of the sphere 1806 is an indication of mean blood pressure, where the  
2 center reference gridline is a normal mean blood pressure 1803. The lower limit, or  
3 diastolic blood pressure 1804 is shown by the length of the bar extending downward from  
4 the sphere 1806. Previous historical values for the sphere 1806 are also provided in  
5 1805, 1807.

6 Figure 19 is a view of the front view portion of the display of a preferred  
7 embodiment of the present invention showing the cardiac object in the foreground and  
8 the respiratory object in the background. This view 1900 provides a more quantitative  
9 image of the hemodynamic variables, stroke volume, blood pressure 1901 and heart rate.  
10 The “normal” reference lines are more apparent. In the preferred embodiment,  
11 respiration is shown by changes in the background color.

12 Figure 20 is a view of the top view portion of the display 2000 of a preferred  
13 embodiment of the present invention showing the cardiac object toward the bottom of the  
14 view and the respiratory object toward the top of the view. Inhaled gas 2002 and  
15 exhaled gas 2003. CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and oxygen saturation of the arterial blood 2001  
16 versus time are also shown.

17 Figure 21 is a view of the side view portion of the display of a preferred  
18 embodiment of the present invention showing the cardiac object to the left and the  
19 respiratory object to the right. Gas concentration in the lungs 2101, a calibrated scale for  
20 gas concentration 2103, blood pressure 2100, and oxygen saturation 2101 are shown.  
21 The end view, shown here in figure 21, is especially useful during treatment, where the  
22 goal is to bring the variables back to the center or normal state. Functional relationships

1 can be added to this view to predict how treatment can be expected to bring the variables  
2 back to normal.

3 Figure 22 is a view of the 3-D perspective view portion of the display of a  
4 preferred embodiment of the present invention showing the cardiac object in the left  
5 foreground and the respiratory object in the right background. This view 2200 provides  
6 a comprehensive, integrated and interactive view of nine physiological variables. The  
7 sphere 2201 grows and shrinks with each heartbeat. Its height is proportional to the  
8 heart's stroke volume and its width is proportional to heart rate. This graphic object 2201  
9 offers useful similarity to a beating heart. The gridframe 2202 shows the expected  
10 normal values for stroke volume and heart rate. The position of this object 2201 on the  
11 screen is proportional to the patient's mean blood pressure. The ends of the bar 2203  
12 drawn vertically through the center of the heart object show systolic and diastolic blood  
13 pressure. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the background 2204 is colored  
14 to show inspired and expired gases. The height of the "curtain" 2205 is proportional to  
15 tidal volume. The width of each fold 2206 is proportional to respiratory rate. In the  
16 preferred embodiment colors are used to show the concentrations of respiratory gases.  
17 Time moves from right to left with the present condition shown at the "front" or right  
18 edge of the view 2200. Past states 2207 remain to permit a historical view of the data.

19 It is to be understood that the above-described embodiments and examples are  
20 merely illustrative of numerous and varied other embodiments and applications which  
21 may constitute applications of the principles of the invention. Such other embodiments  
22 may be readily devised by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit or

1 scope of this invention and it is our intent that they are deemed to be within the scope of  
2 this invention.